

Greetings to all of our friends and supporters, we hope it has been a good start to 2014 for you all so far!

Issue 3 of our newsletter is an update on recent events at CALM Africa and CFU, to let you know about some key activities and how the year ahead is looking for the charity.

We hope you received the Charity Update in November, but in case you didn't receive this it's attached with the newsletter. The update was intended to ensure our supporters have a better understanding of our organisation and what we do.

In the Update, we promised bi-annual newsletters to keep everyone informed about activities. There will be the regular issues distributed in

Summer 2014 and Christmas 2014, but now is a good time to catch up with everyone with the latest news.

We hope by the Christmas issue we'll be struggling for space to tell you about all the fantastic activities this year!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

The CFU Team



The Annual CALM Africa Children's Christmas Party was a great success again at the end of 2013. The school children and local community had a fantastic day of food, presents and dancing.

Read more from volunteer Jenny Douglas on page 2.

So how did CFU do in 2013 to help CALM Africa's work and what do we have planned now?

Well, last year £25,000 went from CFU to CALM Africa to fund their operations and projects, of which £10,000 was for child sponsorship. This is fantastic and thank you to everyone who has supported us, in any way, through

donations or running your own fundraising activities.

The downside? Of that amount, only £4,000 was unrestricted funding. The support for projects is fantastic, but unrestricted funding is a crucial need for CALM Africa. This funding is needed to allocate across the year for all on-going operational

costs, staff allowances, maintenance of facilities, etc.

Our focus for 2014, whilst of course supporting volunteers and projects identified, is to increase the amount of unrestricted fundraising we do, to keep CALM Africa operating to a high standard and sustainably.

CALM Africa Annual Children's Christmas Party

I have previously worked as a volunteer for CALM Africa and received an invitation to come back to Uganda for the Christmas Party on 7th December. I missed the school, the pupils and the teachers and so I made the decision to return for the party.

It didn't disappoint.

The day kicked off with Pastor Cyrus opening the event with a church service, which lasted from 9:30-11am. After 11 o'clock, the children started performing.



A few words from
Agnes Nakabugo
ex-Jolly Mercy pupil:

"First of all the school was decorated. Lots of people were invited, the guest of honour was from Buganda Kingdom and pupils gave out great entertainment. I also welcomed parents and visitors. Jolly Mercy kids always happy and friendly."

All classes put on their own piece of traditional dancing, acting and reciting poetry. A huge effort was made by pupils and teachers alike (the maths teacher Edward even got involved in a little dancing himself!).

The school also encourages the children to participate in Scouting and on the day, dressed in their Scout's uniform, under the guidance of their leader, Abel Robert, they demonstrated their skills.

One of the sweetest things to see in the afternoon was Top Class graduate and progress to Primary school. They donned their caps and gowns and received their certificates!

The Guest of honour for the day was the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charles Bwenvu, who gave a speech on the importance of agriculture for Ugandan people. Speeches were also made by the Director of CALM Africa, Dr James Ssekiwanuka and Patron of CALM Africa & Director of Children First Uganda, Tony Bateman.



We were treated to a full day of events by the children and in the afternoon everyone was provided with a hearty Christmas meal of matooke, beef, rice and vegetables, which was appreciated by all.

The day finished with a piece of Christmas cake for everyone. The children each received a gift and sweets and we all went home happy and satisfied!!

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all. Well done to the Director and his team for all their efforts!!

by Jenny Douglas,
CALM Africa volunteer

A huge thank you from the CFU Team to some very generous supporters who helped the Annual Children's Christmas Party go ahead through your kind donations.

This is a great tradition at CALM Africa, enjoyed by the entire community. It gives the children something to look forward to, something to be proud of and helps to further promote the work of CALM Africa. We hope it will be an activity that continues year upon year!

Feature Fundraisers

This is becoming a regular part of our newsletters, to showcase the work of recent volunteers who have done some fundraising or any support work for CALM Africa and how it is helping their work in Uganda.

The Bake Off - Big Build

Alison Michie is a regular volunteer and supporter of CALM Africa and is now a member of CFU Board. Here is a just a snapshot of the fantastic work she and friends did in 2013 to complete the building work of the boys' dormitory at JMLC.



The buildings had been like this for a year and a half...
After raising £400 (1.6million shillings) through their bake sale and 2 weeks work...



Thank you Alison & friends!!

Health & Hope

In July 2012 I spent two weeks volunteering with CALM Africa. I got to see the wonderful work they do for children and families living within the Wakiso District of Uganda. I've made friends that I'll never forget and met people who will always be in my heart.

I wanted to do something a little different. Something that would stand out, yet give CALM Africa something to keep and cherish. My idea came about after a work colleague showed me a photo album her son had made for his wife's birthday.


This is the basis for the first fundraising activity of the Health & Hope campaign.

Volunteer Sherry is fundraising for medical supplies and services for CALM Africa to continue delivering healthcare support in the Outreach Programme and JMLC. She is creating a photo album to give to CALM Africa for Christmas 2014, full of pictures from volunteers and friends. With a donation of £1 to the healthcare fund, send a picture with a smile and a message to CALM Africa to give them a great present this year.

For more information, check out her campaign pages or send her an email.



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 @Health_HopeUG

 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Health-and-Hope/429382307151269>

 www.facebook.com/childrenfirstuganda

 @childrenfirstug

Supporters' Social!

We think it's about time we had another event to bring past volunteers, friends and supporters together... and requests from volunteers agree with this thought!

So, on Saturday 28th June we'll be hosting a social with an update on CALM Africa. Between now and the end of June, Dr James Ssekiwanuka and the rest of the team will be sending us even more information about how CALM Africa, its schools, projects, staff and children are getting on so that at this get-together we can give you the most up to date news on activities.

Even better, CFU have arranged our AGM to be in London on the same date, so it will be a chance to meet all of our team and get to talk to us about the work we're doing.

It's of course an opportunity for volunteers and supporters of CALM Africa to come together, perhaps catch up with old friends and reminisce on good times. But, it's also a chance to find out about anything you can get involved in here in the UK to continue to help CALM, in whatever ways you can.

Sat 28th June
Welcome @ 5:30pm

Charterhouse Bar
38 Charterhouse St
London
EC1M 6JH

Tickets for the evening will be £5 and buffet food will be included. We hope to see many of you joining us and if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

For tickets or any further information contact Natalie:

natalie@childrenfirstuganda.co.uk



Final updates... for now!

Whilst our website and other information materials get a refresh and updated, we have a new blog online to regularly keep our supporters up to date on news and activities.

You can find our blog here:

<http://childrenfirstug.wordpress.com>

and we will keep this more frequently updated about our own work and news from CALM Africa.

Our AGM meeting will be held in June before the get-together and, as always, we are interested to hear your thoughts. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the Board then please get in touch and we'll add your ideas or queries to the agenda. Our organisation only makes a difference because of the fantastic support we receive, so we're always open to hearing from volunteers and donors about opportunities and new ideas.

Our next newsletter will be out in Summer 2014. If you have done some fundraising activities, are planning an event or have an article you would like included then please get in touch. We always welcome volunteers and supporters contributing to the things we do.

Contact media@childrenfirstuganda.co.uk to discuss anything related to newsletters or other media.

If you have a great idea for a fundraising activity or want to do something but aren't sure how, again, please do get in touch! Contact fundraising@childrenfirstuganda.co.uk for more information.